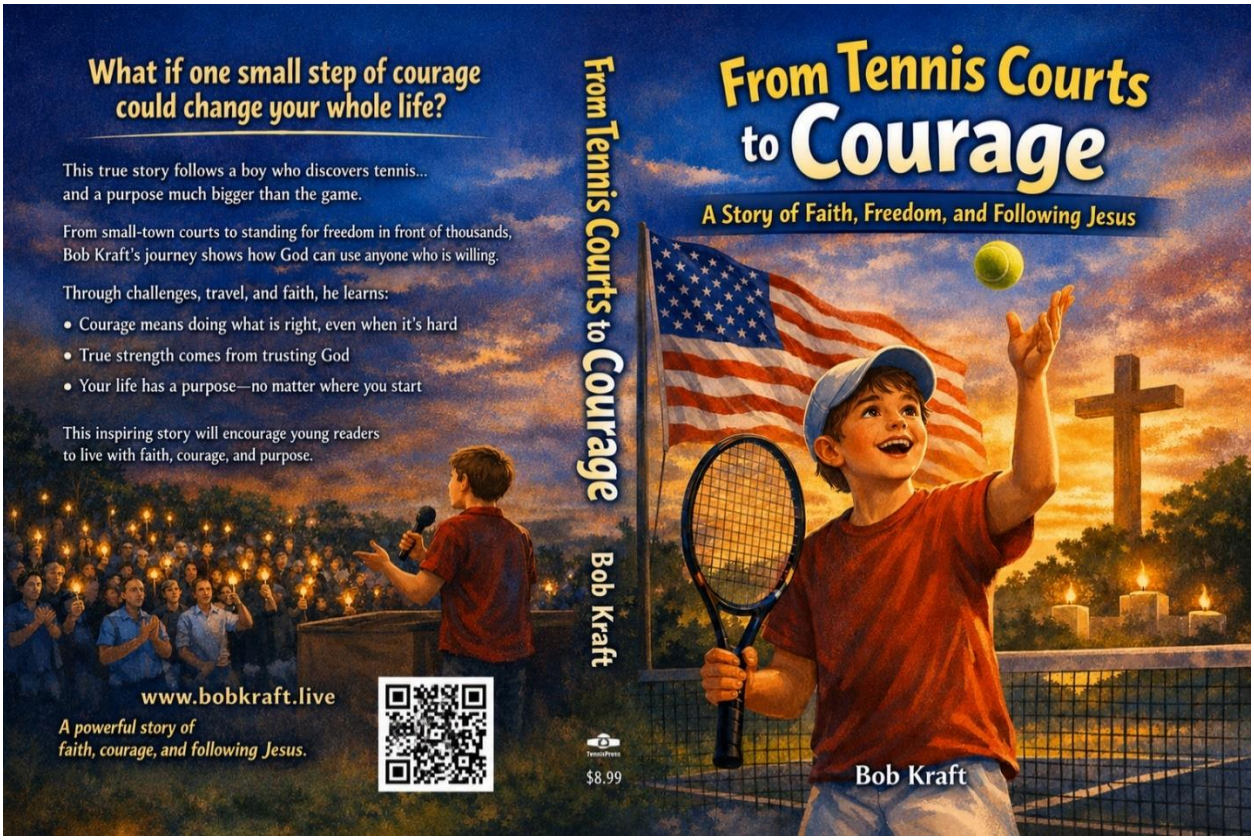
What if one small step of courage could change your whole life?
This true story follows a boy who discovers tennis... and a purpose much bigger than the game.
From small-town courts to standing for freedom in front of thousands, Bob Kraft's journey shows how God can use anyone who is willing.
Through challenges, travel, and faith, he learns:
• Courage means doing what is right, even when it's hard
• True strength comes from trusting God
• Your life has a purpose—no matter where you start
This inspiring story will encourage young readers to live with faith, courage, and purpose.
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From Tennis Courts to Courage

A Story of Faith, Freedom and Following Jesus

By Robert "Bob" Kraft

"What if one small step of courage could change your whole life."

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From Tennis Courts to Public Squares. A Life of Faith, Service and Standing for Freedom.

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Dedication

To my children, whose lives carry forward everything that matters most. This is written for you and to pass on to future generations. To those who will benefit from reading it, I am thankful. To those who stood for freedom, whether known or unknown. And to God, whose guidance made every step possible.

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Chapter 1

A Boy with a Flag

Once there was a boy with big dreams and **a heart full of courage.** He loved his country and loved God. His life was an amazing adventure.

In the heart of America, he stood tall, waving the flag and facing the crowd.

Be strong and courageous... for the Lord your God goes with you. — Deuteronomy 31:6

Chapter 2

Growing Up in a Small Town

The boy grew up in a small town, where the days were simple and full of freedom. He played catch with **his dad**, biked with friends on tree-lined streets, and loved summer nights filled with fireflies.

He trusted in God and heard stories of courage and faith at Sunday school. Every Fourth of July, his town would gather to celebrate America, waving flags and watching fireworks.

Train up a child in the way he should go. — Proverbs 22:6

Chapter 3

Playing with Friends

The boy grew up with good friends and they loved to play outside together.

They rode bikes, played sports, built forts, and explored the woods, learning to be kind and to do the right thing.

A friend loves at all times.” — Proverbs 17:17

Chapter 4

The Tennis Court

One day, the boy found an old, cracked tennis court in his town and picked up a dusty racket.

With his father's encouragement, he learned how to hit the ball over a worn-out net, growing better every day then friends came to play with him.

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. — Philippians 4:13

Chapter 5

Learning and Growing

The boy played many matches and learned that winning wasn't the only goal. After a tough loss, he felt *disappointed*, but he knew God was with him—win or lose.

He learned that it's okay to fall short, as long as he kept trying and trusted God through the ups and downs.

Let the wise listen and add to their learning. — Proverbs 1:5

Chapter 6

Camp Challenges

When he wes older, the boy attended a difficult tennis camp where he was pushed to his limits. The training was tough, but he didn't give up.

He learned that courage means giving your best, even when it's hard.

Consider it pure joy... whenever you face trials. — James 1:2

Chapter 7

Back on the Court

After camp, the boy returned home stronger and more determined than ever. He hit the court with renewed energy, practicing his swings, serves, and volleys day after day.

He made it onto his high school team and played for the glory of God.

Run in such a way as to get the prize. — 1 Corinthians 9:24

Chapter 8

Glory Be to God

The boy's hard work paid off, and he competed in big tournaments. He played well, always pointing to God for his success.

After matches, he'd bow his head and pray on the court, sharing God's love wherewer he went.

Give glory to God in all you do. — 1 Corinthians 10:31

Chapter 9

The Call

As he grew older, the boy felt God's call to serve his country. It was a choice born of love and faith. His family supported him, prayed with him, and watched with pride.

He became a soldier, wearing his uniform with courage and a heart full of devotion.

Here I am. Send me! — Isaiah 6:8

Chapter 10

Called to Serve

The young soldier served with honor, facing dangers with courage and relying on God through every challenge.

He was a light in the darkness for his fellow soldiers, praying with them and bringing hope to the battlefield.

Serve one another humbly in love. — Galatians 5:13

Chapter 11

Called to Battle

The soldier faced hard times and was called to battle far from home. With courage, he stood alongside his fellow soldiers, trusting God to guide them through danger.

He experienced fear and hardship, but he kept his faith, knowing God was with him.

Put on the full armor of God. — Ephesians 6:11

Chapter 12

A Hero Returns

Through the battles, the soldier remembered his purpose: to serve his nation and his God. He came home a hero.

His family awaited him, and he thanked God for bringing him back safely, ready to serve wherever God led him next.

Well done, good and faithful servant. — Matthew 25:23

Chapter 13

Lessons Learned

Looking back, the soldier knew that all his experiences, from chasing tennis balls to crossing battlefields, were part of God's plan to build courage and faith in his heart.

He understood that true courage is standing strong and faithful, no matter the challenge.

The Lord gives wisdom. — Proverbs 2:6

Chapter 14

For God and Country

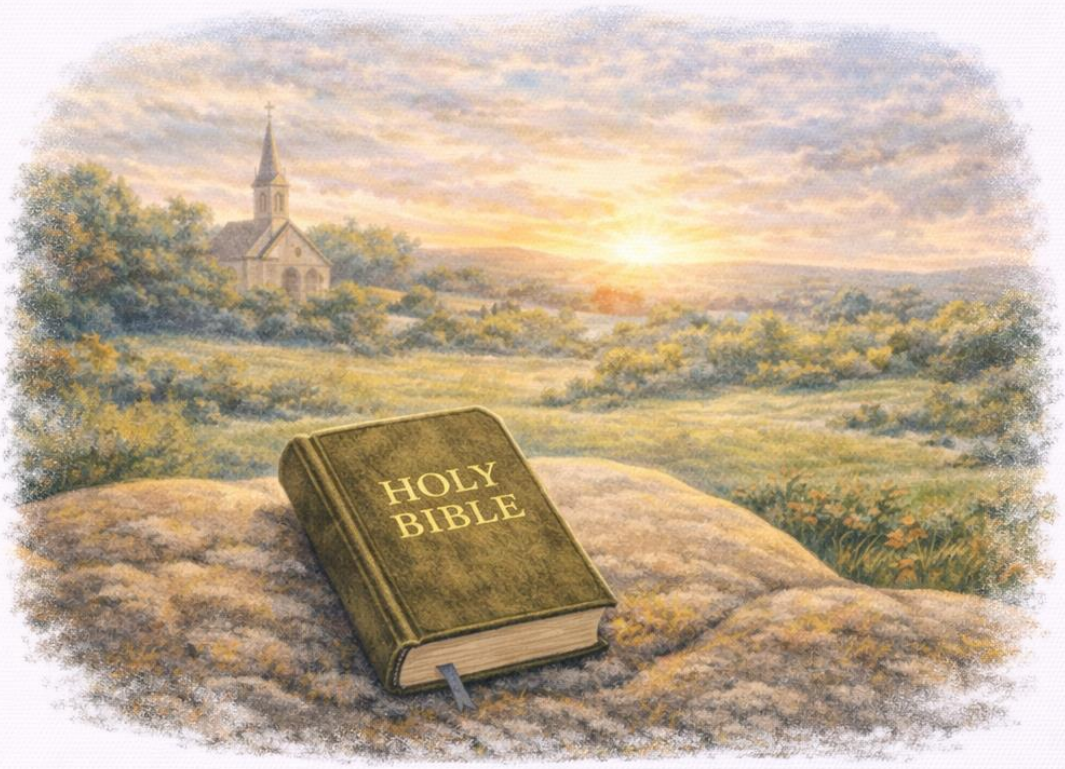
With a grateful heart, the soldier reflected on his journey and saw God's hand guiding him all the way.

He knew his life was a witness to the power of faith and the blessings of living for God and loving his country.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. — Psalm 33:12

The End

The boy's story became a testament to trusting in God and serving with faith and courage. He lived for God and country, inspiring others to do the same.



I have fought the good fight… I have kept the faith. — 2 Timothy 4:7

About the Author

Robert Kraft is a pastor, former U.S. Army intelligence and administration soldier, tennis coach, and founder of Tennis Ministry International. He served in twenty-seven countries and lived for decades in communist China and Hong Kong. He now resides in Hawaii and continues serving youth, veterans, and those in need.

This book is released at the author's request for the lowest cost allowed by the publisher. If the work speaks to you, optional online donations will be accepted—given directly as a gift to support his children's education. No cost. No obligation. Just impact for Jesus.

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